

# Industrial Worker

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EDUCATION ORGANIZATION EMANCIPATION



Cops attack strikers in September of 1995. The violence against workers is less obvious now, but the struggle continues. Photo by Becky Armstrong

## Standing Strong in Detroit

On Friday, November 13, over 40 students, locked-out Detroit Newspaper workers, and community members gathered on the University of Michigan campus in Ann Arbor to shut down the scab Detroit News' efforts to recruit interns at the Michigan Daily, the student newspaper.

Similar recruiting at the Daily had been going on for years, but this semester, after a visit to campus by the Detroit Free Press in October, several Daily staff members attempted to notify the editors of the labor situation at the Newspapers. They were unsuccessful in getting the interviews canceled. The Daily editors believed the Newspapers' management false claim that the strike was "settled". They believed this despite the benefit of a visit by several Newspaper workers a few weeks earlier, who explained the current lock-out to them. With the Detroit News

recruiter scheduled to come to campus, news of the impending interviews leaked out.

Members of the Students Organizing for Labor and Economic Equality (SOLE), a new student-labor group on campus were determined to protest this latest round of scab interviewing, and if possible, put a stop to it. After gathering briefly in the center of campus, they staged a short march to the Student Publications Building, where the Daily offices are located.

Vigorous chanting commenced on the way, and continued for some time outside the building, with many members of the Daily staff anxiously peering out of the windows. A representative of the protesters went inside to inform the Daily that they were there to confront the

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## Bell Canada Operators Put On Hold

Bell Canada's profits for 1997 were \$852 million and the CEO brought home paychecks totaling a meager \$17 million for one year's work. Profits for 1998 are estimated to be \$900 million. Sounds like things are going pretty well with Bell Canada, a name now synonymous with greed and union busting. If things are going so well though, why has Bell Canada decided to sell its telephone operator division to U.S.-based Excell Global Services? The reason, says Bell Canada, is that the operator division is losing money, and that growth can occur only if the division belongs to a company with expertise in this field. The reason, says Communications, Energy and Paperworks Union (CEP), is that it is a "greed motivated sellout and a callous response to the employees' efforts to gain pay equity".

At risk are 2,500 jobs, most held by women. Bell Canada has affirmed that the operators will all be offered jobs, but the majority would face relocation since the current 55 centers located in Ontario and Quebec may be reduced to only five. Not only would they be forced to relocate, however, but they could also face a reduction in salary by up to 40%. Bell Canada claims this to be a necessary move, but their \$900 million profit would clearly say otherwise. If it is money they need to save, their CEO could take a 40% payout and still earn in one year the combined annual paychecks of 188 telephone operators. There's some fat that could be

trimmed. And trimmed some more.

The telephone operators represented by CEP filed suit against Bell Canada to gain pay equity. The mostly female operators want their pay in line with the higher paid, mostly male telephone technicians. If they win, they could receive a 10% pay hike retroactive to 1992. Bell Canada insists this has nothing to do with their move to sell explaining that the pay hike would be retroactive, and would therefore not affect future earnings. The CEP refutes this saying that the win *would* result in pay hikes for the future. Gary Cwitco, National Representative of CEP, further points out that the telephone operator division is currently under the jurisdiction of the federal government. If sold, the division would transfer to the jurisdiction of the provincial government. Workers in Ontario would no longer be protected under the federal government's pay equity law, as it is a federal law, and is not a provincial law in Ontario. That's not all though. Changes to Ontario's labor code would result in the forfeiture of previous benefits gained by their union. In this situation, the only winners would be Excell Global Systems, and Bell Canada as they would not have to worry about future salary increases from the pay equity lawsuit.

The move from federal jurisdiction to provincial jurisdiction has many Canadians concerned not only for the

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## Towards a world wide living wage

Despite several steps forward in the effort to eliminate sweatshops, companies refuse to pay unorganized workers livable wages. The vast majority of low-wage workers are left in poverty and hunger. Payment of living wages, which allow workers and their families to live in dignity, is fundamental to eliminating sweatshops.

Last year a coalition of organizations hosted the Living Wage Working Summit at the University of California at Berkeley to increase our understanding of how to determine a living wage and to develop coordinated strategies for winning a living wage in the global garment and shoe industries. Over 50 participants attended the Summit, including human rights groups, organized labor, worker organizations, women's organizations, civil and immigrant rights organizations, student groups, and academics from the U.S., Mexico, Canada, El Salvador, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Hong Kong and the Netherlands.

### A Working Living Wage Methodology

One of the goals of the Summit was to increase understanding of how to determine and calculate a global living wage. The following draft formula arose

out of discussions among participants in a working group during the Summit. It is intended as the first step in developing a methodology that will be tested over time and will assist in calculating 'living wage' rates. The formula's premise is that a living wage is a "take home" or "net" wage, earned during a country's legal maximum work week-but not more than 48 hours. A living wage provides for the basic needs (housing, energy, nutrition, clothing, health care, education, potable water, childcare, transportation and savings) of an average family unit divided by the average number of adult wage earners. The formula takes into account

the average number of adult wage earners in order to exclude child labor.

### Draft formula

Take home wage (1) = (average family size (2) / average of adult wage earners) x (Cost of nutrition + clothing + health care + education + potable water + child care + transportation (3)) + (housing + Energy (4) / average of adult wage earners) + Savings (10% of income) (5)

1. The take home wage is based on the number of hours worked in a legal working week (not exceeding 48 hours in one week). The take home wage is the worker's weekly net wage (subtracting out union dues, taxes, etc.).

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To the editor,

Corrections Corporation of America, headquartered on Nashville, Tennessee, is currently running ads on local t.v. to improve a severely damaged public image after recent escapes by felons from CCA operated prison facilities at Youngstown, Ohio and Clifton, Tennessee, in recent months. These prison escapes focused attention on a poor security record at CCA operated prisons. When state prisoners housed by CCA escape, the Tennessee Department of Correction and local and state law enforcement are forced to take the responsibility, and incur the immense expense of conducting the ensuing massive manhunts to recapture them. The public is naturally endangered when convicted felons escape but the public, the working class, is more endangered by the very existence of the private prison industry.

The United States' working class is well aware of the fulfillment of past presidential hopeful Ross Perot's vision of a "loud whooshing sound" as American jobs left the United States destined for the underpaid work force in Mexico, following the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

# Readers' Soapbox

The current trend of prison privatization is the domestic version of the NAFTA principle and the logical step toward the escalation of the intentional lowering of working class living standards by those few who control the wealth of this nation.

It is a clear and undeniable fact that private prison operation corporations pay less in wages per employee/prisoner than either the state or federal government. It is also a fact that the private prison operation corporation's primary goal is to make the largest profit possible to please shareholders, with the public's safety being of secondary importance. The private sector is beginning to realize the tremendous potential of a work force composed of prisoners from within state and federal penal institutions. Prisoner labor is can be used without payment of competitive wages. Prisoner labor can clearly be exploited without concern for the health or welfare of workers. Prisoner labor is composed of society's throwaways and prisoner workers can be discarded without a backward glance to be replaced by other prisoners when their usefulness diminishes. Prisoners have the very clear

potential of becoming this century's version of slaves or indentured servants. There is unfortunately little sympathy afforded the plight of prisoners when the manipulators of public opinion and politicians preach about making prisoners work, while nobody bothers wondering about what work is available to prisoners. The only work available to prisoners is the jobs of the prisoner's free counterpart in the community. Eventually there will be a full realization that the prison population is a work force destined by clever parasitic minds to replace free blue collar workers as they can be used up, then thrown away, with a surplus waiting to be placed within their vacated jobs.

The majority of the overall United States' population is composed of the working class, who must come to realize (in order to ensure the survival of the class) that every job a prisoner fills, every prisoner who is forced to manufacture products which are in direct competition with a product in the free market, is an employment opportunity denied to a free person. It was bad enough when capitalism succeeded in sending U.S. workers' jobs

to Mexico, but even worse for both prisoners and their free counterparts when a percentage of the remaining jobs are removed from the market to be brought behind prison walls and razor wire-topped fences. As more and more states contract with private prison operation companies like Wackenhut and Corrections Corporation of America, then the private sector logically has made plans to make profitable use of the warm bodies entrusted to their care, custody and control. It is only a matter of time before American prisoners become a viable threat to the continued existence of the working class if they do nothing to stop the current trend towards prison privatization.

I am a prisoner and can see clearly what is happening from inside.

I come from a proud Irish working class heritage and have faith that the working class will wake up eventually to the stark cold reality of the direction capitalism is carrying this nation before it is too late for all of us.

Harold H. Thompson #93992  
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IU 330: Building Construction Workers  
IU 450: Print & Publishing House Workers  
IU 460: Food Processing Workers  
IU 510: Marine Transport Workers  
IU 560: Communications Workers  
IU 610: Health Service Workers  
IU 620: Education Workers  
IU 630: Entertainment Workers  
IU 640: Restaurant & Hotel Workers  
IU 660: General Distribution Workers  
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## Industrial Worker

the voice of  
**REVOLUTIONARY  
INDUSTRIAL  
UNIONISM**

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Eric Chase  
Olympia, WA  
We've got a couple of campaigns just getting off the ground and are working on several projects, like Han Young solidarity and teaching labor history in high school. We are getting ready to burn some IWW Radio Show cd's out here, too, so watch for when they are ready for public consumption.

Patrick Carey  
Dover, Kent, British Isles  
We are currently very busy dealing with the rise in racism in Dover and the surrounding area, which has been fanned by a really racist local press. An editorial in the Dover Express on Oct. 1st, '98 called asylum seekers "human sewage" to be washed like "dross" down the drain! There have been many letters from bigots/racists in the papers using words like "plague" and "spongers". These words have been accompanied by attacks on refugees' homes and by assaults on them personally. Some of the bigots held a meeting in town on Wed., Nov. 18th. This was successfully interrupted by a group which included IWW members.

Jason Adams  
Gainesville, FL  
Recently we have put up websites for the Atlanta GMB, Tampa Group, Orlando Group, the General Defense Committee, and the Coalition of Immokalee Workers - thereby increasing our visibility. Local members participated in the School of the Americas civil disobedience action in November (this year's action nearly quadrupled the number who participated last year). The 2nd Florida IWW Conference at Sebastian was a success - Wobs from Miami, Orlando, Tampa, Gainesville and Melbourne showed up. There was coverage on Fox and CBS for my participation in a day of fasting. The fast was to draw attention to farmworker wages and conditions and I was able to mention the IWW, too. Free Radio Gainesville (IWW Job Branch) was unfortunately raided by the FCC and over \$1500 in equipment was stolen when

noone was there. The renter of the house from which the equipment was taken was fined \$6000. Even so, we plan to fight this flagrant abuse of the people's right to free speech.

Steve Ongerth  
Berkeley, CA  
Early in November, the East Bay IWW internet server was hacked into. Fortunately, <bari> has been repaired and is operating normally again, and I have fixed most of the security holes. I did need to purchase a system administrator's guide and a second hard drive for <bari> out of pocket at a cost of \$179. If anyone would like to compensate me for this, please send checks made out to IWW - Local 23, P.O. Box 440485, San Francisco, CA 94140 and specify that they are for <bari> system hack recovery. The month ended on an up note. The Bay Area

branches collectively took in over \$250 tabling at a celebration for the Neptune Jade Defense Committee (the PMA dropped its lawsuit against FW Robert Irmingier) and the Billy Bragg

benefit concert the following night. Many folks took literature and bought t-shirts, sharing a table with Billy Bragg's merchandise helped sales a bit as well.

Faith Halverson  
LaCrosse, WI  
We are setting up a food drive to bring the striking UPIU local 7815 workers in Clintonville. They've been on strike for over 2 months. On December 19th, they're having a rally that some of us plan on attending.

Bob Heald  
Montpelier, VT  
The local liveable wage campaign is opening a worker's center in Barre, VT where they will provide legal, technical and organizing assistance to low income workers. Montpelier City Council did pass a liveable wage ordinance, but it doesn't cover city contractors, so we still have a fight on our hands.

## PREAMBLE TO THE IWW CONSTITUTION

**The working class and the employing class have nothing in common.** There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life. **Between these two classes** a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.

**We find** that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

**These conditions can be changed** and the interests of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

**Instead of the conservative motto**, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system." **It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism.** The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with the capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

## Around Our Union

## COINTELPRO in the '90s

# Oakland Bombing Lawsuit Update

A federal magistrate said on December 16 that he will order the FBI to provide further evidence to lawyers for the late Judi Bari and fellow IWW and Earth First! activist Darryl Cherney. The FBI had claimed that an appeal by co-defendant Oakland (CA) Police Department of an earlier ruling in the 7 year old lawsuit shielded it from providing additional evidence about FBI conduct related to the May 1990 Oakland car bombing.

Last winter the Oakland city attorney appealed a district court decision denying Oakland police officers "qualified immunity" from the suit. The appeal, now pending before the US 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court, has delayed for over a year the setting of a trial date. The FBI's refusal to cooperate has compounded the delay.

Giving a verbal preview of his decision, Judge James Larson said that the FBI will be ordered to respond to written interrogatories and that a number of depositions will be allowed, although with clear restrictions to protect Oakland's interest.

The hearing on a motion to compel discovery also considered whether Bari and Cherney's legal team would be allowed to take a deposition of former FBI Director William Sessions. The request to

depose Sessions came out of previous discovery documents in the case which show direct communication between Sessions and representatives of Maxxam CEO Charles Hurwitz, referring to a previous conversation about Earth First! "militancy." Judge Larson said he's not inclined to allow the deposition at this time claiming the letter only shows an outline of the needed proof of Sessions' direct personal knowledge of events surrounding the bombing. Still, the Sessions deposition remains an open issue for the future.

Both the FBI and Oakland Police Department argued to delay discovery and depositions until Oakland's appeal is resolved. Bari and Cherney attorneys argued that the magistrate should order the FBI to continue with discovery and depositions that do not directly involve Oakland Police officers.

A date should soon be set for oral arguments on Oakland's appeal. "This means the case is moving ahead again on all fronts," says Tanya Brannan of the National Lawyer Guild's Redwood Summer Justice Project.

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### Medical Update & Solidarity Day

## Class War Prisoner Leonard Peltier

February 6th of this year marks the 23rd year of Leonard's arrest. Each year this day is honored with international marches and rallies. This year is more important than in the past because of the torture and the renewed growing campaign for justice.

Leonard is currently suffering from complications of maxilla-facial surgery at the Springfield Medical Prison facility. In that surgery Leonard almost died. Not only did that surgery not improve Leonard's condition, it made it far worse.

Leonard is now in continuous, excruciating pain. He cannot open his mouth enough to bite his food, nor can he even chew. Leonard, for very good reasons, does not want to go back to Springfield. The renowned maxilla-facial surgeon Doctor Keller of the Mayo Clinic has written to the prison telling them that he is willing to treat Leonard.

The federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) has refused to let Leonard be treated. If the government, for political reasons, causes and allows a prisoner to suffer great pain, there is no other word for that than torture.

Leonard says, "Let's continue working in the direction we're going. I can't receive any justice in the courts so the only thing we have to deal with is the political. We can win by building a

powerful block of people who are willing to organize for the rights of indigenous people."

We are calling upon all people who believe in social justice to help in the campaign to end the torture of Leonard Peltier NOW! Please send e-mails to: Ms. Kathleen Hawk, Director, Bureau Of Prisons at: swolfson@bop.gov, or write to her at: 320 First St., Washington, DC 20534, or fax: 202-514-6878, or call: 202-307-3198 and ask that Leonard be allowed treatment by Dr. Keller at the Mayo Clinic.

If you can help, please contact the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee at: lpdc@idir.net. We are asking that, on this day, groups write up solidarity statements for people in their areas to sign and send them to: U.S. Pardon Attorney, Roger C. Adams, 500 First St. NW, Suite 400 Ref: Leonard Peltier #89637-132, Washington, D.C. 20530 USA. President Bill Clinton, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20500 USA. (These should include support for clemency).



Please send copies to: LPDC, P.O. BOX 583, Lawrence, KS 66044 USA.





As these pearls of wisdom are being written, the streets outside the window are still buried beneath half-heartedly removed snowdrifts. The Windy City has over the holiday weekend been blessed with another record blizzard and Wet-Drawers Willie's wing-ding has been upstaged by over twenty inches of snow which has been enjoying prime time coverage not only on the local boob tube, but meriting network coverage as well.

Our advanced technology endowed upon us by Western Civilization has been magnificently upstaged by Mother Nature, albeit with a little help from capitalist efficiency. One would wonder if emergencies like these could not be alleviated in part by utilizing the vast hosts of unemployed and homeless who would be willing to make ten dollars an hour shoveling the streets and sidewalks, even in the face of blowing snow.

The modern city which has been designed to thwart possible popular insurrection could just as easily have been designed to facilitate the speedy removal of snowdrifts or any other natural phenomena that is a threat to the smooth flow of modern industrial civilization. But of course the modern city or should we say megalopolis is a by-product of a system that provides for the wealth and comfort of but a miniscule portion of our species.

Within the approaching third millennium that is less than twelve months away, it becomes incumbent upon the overwhelming majority of our species to arrive at the realization that the class-structured system that we live under, we can ill afford to perpetuate. The cancerous growth of urban areas and rapid depletion of food-producing open land is far from conducive to our survival as a species. Even if tomorrow zero population growth were to be accomplished, not too far into this coming millennium our world population will have doubled.

We must realize that our present administrators, whether they call themselves capitalists or socialists, are not going to lift a finger to cut down on the surplus of working stiffs. As long as there are more workers than there are jobs, they can dictate what wages and conditions shall be.

This is of course quite logical for those who happen to be in the saddle but very illogical for those of us who are under the saddle. Our species of fauna has not been evolved with backs to accommodate the wearing of saddles; any more than a limited number of our kind have been destined to sit in saddles. After all saddles are most unnatural. The best-designed ones will eventually culminate in a sore butt. Those who saddle their fellow homo sapiens are far from happy creatures. They must always worry about being bucked off. That is why they have their armies and police forces that ironically are recruited from our very own ranks.

The capitalists never do any work, least of all their own dirty work.

There has been some trepidation among some quarters concerning the rapidly approaching Third Millennium. They theorize that since all computers have been geared to the first digit, the introduction of the second digit is going to throw all computers out of whack, resulting in the breakdown of the economic system and civilized society in general. Contemplating this from behind this typewriter our present economic system and civilized society, your scribe wonders if this is not a truly optimistic outlook and why in the Hell does the Third Millennium have to come so late in his life.

C.C. Redcloud

## Worldwide Living Wage

continued from page 1

2. The average family size is divided by the average number of adult wage earners in a family. As noted below it has not yet been determined what data would be used to quantify this analysis.

3. This list of 'basic needs' was derived from a larger list that also included: entertainment, vacation, paid family leave, retirement, life insurance and personal liability insurance. This list is not definitive and may vary depending on regional factors.

4. The cost of housing and energy is divided by the average number of adult wage earners. Housing and energy needs are considered to expand in proportion to the number of wage earners in the household.

5. A random factor of 10% has been included for savings in order to permit workers to have some discretionary

income and to allow workers to send money home to their families.

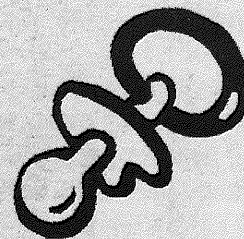
### Issues for further research

What data is available and should be used to calculate wage levels? What is acceptable data? For example, the 1990 World Bank Poverty Assessment of China constructs a food basket as an estimate based on 90% rice, while the 1997 Bangladesh study includes a more diverse dietary mix. Could one develop nutritional recommendations or parameters for reviewing food baskets such as the National Home Surveys? How old is too old for data? For example, the U.S. market basket is constructed based on 1950s lifestyles.

What level of regionalization should be required for the factors in the formula? For example, national family sizes vs. regional food basket costs. Or should the

## Ever wonder what's wrong with the labor movement?

In a speech before Business for Social Responsibility AFL-CIO President John Sweeney declared, "We want to help American business compete in the world and create new wealth for your shareholders and your employees. We want to work with you to bake a larger pie which all Americans can share and not just argue with you about how to divide the existing pie. It is time for business and labor to see each other as natural allies, not natural enemies."



**Greetings from Detroit.** Once capitalism's boom town now scratching for a place in the casino economy.

Detroit. Where the Wobblies organized the first strike in auto at Studebaker in 1913. Where in the 1930s the IWW had a foothold in auto plants and some kind of hand in shaping the early years of the union that emerged out of the winter time factory occupations in Cleveland and Flint. Where fifty

percent of the world's cars were made in 1950. Where for a couple decades now we've made one percent of the world's cars, with nothing but pizza in replacement.

Detroit. Where media giants Gannett and Knight-Ridder came to bust unions three and a half years ago and have lost 40% of circulation and almost \$1,000,000,000,000 since. Where unionists, locked in and locked out, struggle on. Where the larger rank and file labor movement has built solidarity, gets stronger. But we lose more'n we win.

Detroit. Where the new IW Collective has put together its first issue, you're reading it so we must've mailed it too. As you might imagine... it was a bumpy road, we've made mistakes, and we've learned a lot.

Is this the best issue we can publish? No, we'll grow. You can help.

Our vision? We hope to produce a useful, lively, challenging, revolutionary union monthly. We know that capitalism cannot be reformed. We know that work-

ing class folks have to organize and struggle. We're wobs. We believe in organizing at work and through union. We know that issues of race and sex and the ecology are part of our daily lives and part of class struggle.

And Detroit is an international border city, the only place in the US where the Canadian border is to the south. Already Windsor Wobs are involved with this project.

The *Industrial Worker* is our union paper. Our focus is class struggle news. The *Industrial Worker* is a revolutionary union paper. It should help build community which struggles to "take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth."

Many local Wobs are two-carders and know first hand the limitations of current US unionism. We do what we can, at work and in the streets.

We sign off with a verse from Billy Bragg, who also grew up in an auto town. Play it loud!

*I went out drinking with Thomas Paine  
He said that all revolutions are not the same  
They are as different as the cultures  
That give them birth  
For no one idea can solve every problem on earth  
So don't expect it all to happen  
In some prophecised political fashion*

Solidarity,  
Derek Akshun, for the  
Detroit *Industrial Worker* Collective

same level of regionalization be applied to all factors? Whose living standard should be used as the base for calculating wages?

What are the principles that should be advocated by such a formula? For how many persons should one wage provide for? For example, should it advocate one (1) or more wage earners per family? In determining wage levels, is it appropriate to calculate it to a more optimistic 'what do we want' or realistic 'what can we get level'? How and who determines what is a living wage?

### Implementation

What are reasonable criteria for consulting workers and community groups on the content of the 'market basket'? Can the formula be applied globally - does it require a separate study or data for each country/region/factory? How should wage disparities between different regions within a country or between countries be

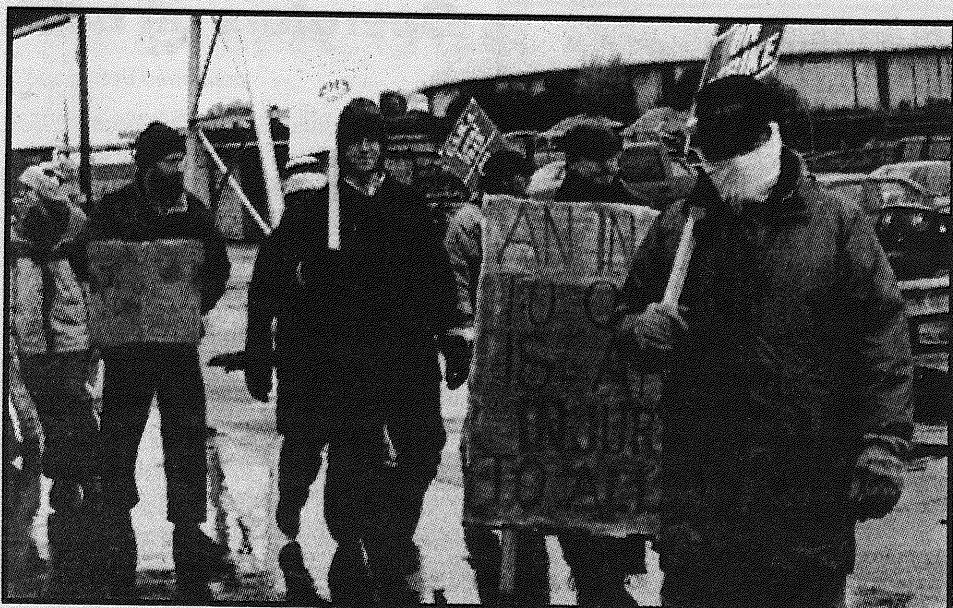
addressed? For example, is it valid to compare wage levels in Haiti and the U.S.? How would an increase in wages affect the number and type of jobs provided by multinational companies in that region? How will increased wage levels affect the level of trade in that region or country?

We welcome feedback on this working methodology, as well as opportunities to conduct research projects to further test this methodology.

Please contact us at [sweatwatch@igc.apc.org](mailto:sweatwatch@igc.apc.org).







## Strikes and the Law, Part II

In my last column, I described some of the various kinds of strikes that organized workers use to win demands. In the eyes of the law, strikes are fit into a few categories which each entitle workers to different rights.

*Economic strikes* are work stoppages which relate to demands regarding wages, hours, and working conditions. Economic strikes often occur when a union and management have reached a bargaining impasse in contract negotiations. Economic strikers cannot be fired for striking, but they may be permanently replaced by scabs. *NLRB v. Mackay Radio & Telegraph Co.*, 304 US 333 (1938) says that a boss has the right to "...protect and >continue his business by supplying places left vacant by strikers. And he is not bound to discharge those hired to fill the places of strikers, upon the election of the latter to resume their employment, in order to create places for them." This is why it becomes an imperative to convince people to not cross picket lines. Bosses are legally afforded the opportunity to get rid of economic strikers by replacing them with scabs, without ever having

to fire them. Under another decision, *Laidlaw Corporation*, 171 NLRB 1336 (1968), economic strikers do have very limited reinstatement rights. The *Laidlaw* rule states: "...economic strikers who unconditionally apply for reinstatement at a time when their positions are filled by permanent replacements: (1) remain employees; (2) are entitled to full reinstatement upon departure of replacements unless they have in the meantime acquired regular and substantially equivalent employment, or the employer can sustain his burden of proof that the failure to offer full reinstatement was for legitimate and substantial business reasons..."

*Unfair labor practice strikes* are work stoppages which protest a violation of labor law by the boss. Don't be fooled by the name, just because you and your co-workers think something is "unfair," doesn't mean that your strike will be an unfair labor practice strike. "Unfair labor practice" is a term of legal art that means something very specific. For a strike to be determined to be an unfair labor practice strike, you need to file an Unfair Labor Practice charge with the National Labor Relations >Board and you need to win it.

ULP strikers are legally protected not only from being fired, but also from being permanently replaced by scabs. *Mastro Plastics Corp. v. NLRB* 350 US 270 (1956) established this legal protection and also limited back pay rights. That said, the

NLRB might pick and choose who gets to go back and who is not entitled to reinstatement based on, among other things, picket line conduct. Staughton Lynd, in his book *Labor Law for the Rank-And-Filer* (available for \$10 postage paid from the Philadelphia GMB, address on page 2 of this paper) tells this unfortunate tale: "I represented a group of non-unionized workers who walked out when the employer fired two men for trying to organize a union. The NLRB found that it was an unfair labor practice strike. But, several strikers were found by the NLRB to be ineligible for reinstatement because of a five-minute incident on the third day of a three-month strike when some workers joined arms to prevent scabs from going through the gate. And workers were recalled one at a time and required to submit to interrogation as to what fellow workers had done on the picket line. If they refused to be interrogated, or asked for the presence of a fellow worker, they were fired; and the NLRB pronounced this to be lawful."

*Unprotected activity strikes* and union

## Wobbling the Works

*unfair labor practice strikes*

give workers no legal protections whatsoever. The National Labor Relations Act defines strike objectives which are unprotected. These are strikes where the object of the strike is: 1) to force an employer to join an employer organization 2) to force a self-employed person to join a labor union (such as a roofing contractor) 3) to force one employer to cease dealing with another person or supplier (secondary boycott) 4) to require recognition after another union has obtained bargaining rights by certification under the Act where re-determination of such rights is barred.

A strike might also be unprotected if unlawful means, like violence, happen during an otherwise protected strike.

In my next column, I will discuss the implication of no-strike agreements in union contracts, and what rights workers have who are bound by a labor-management no-strike agreement.

Do you have a question about strikes or direct action? The next two Wobbling the Works columns will be devoted to discussing issues around strikes. Send your questions and ideas to: Alexis Buss, PO Box 42531, Philadelphia, PA 19101 or e-mail [phillyiww@iww.org](mailto:phillyiww@iww.org). Wobbling the Works is a column designed to inform workers about laws, the limitations and dangers of relying on the legal system to gain better conditions or protect our rights, and how best to use the protections we have.

**A**ll this snow is good for reflection. Sixteen inches in one day and a few more over the following week probably wouldn't impress some of our more northern fellow workers. Here it's a once in a quarter-century event. I get a little awe struck when I drive into a parking lot and can't see the street for the 10-foot-high mounds of plowed snow. It reminds me of being in the snow forts we built as kids: nothing meets the eye but gleaming walls of white.

It's pretty impressive to enter the office on the day of the blizzard with nothing on the ground and leave some 10 hours later to find that your car has been plowed in by the snow removal trucks. Half an hour after that discovery a good capitalist entrepreneur came along and pulled me out for \$20. I would have preferred a good

samaritan; but facing the prospect of a mile walk through continuing snowfall and knee high drifts without any head cover or gloves, I was taking what I could get.

## from the desk of...

I drove and slid around for another half hour looking for a parking space near my apartment, finally settling for one of the few plowed parking lots at a church half way between GHQ and my aptment. So despite getting my car unstuck, I still wound up reaching home cold, wet and winded. For the next two days, parking was catch as catch can. The mountains of plowed snow prevented parking on the streets. The public parking lots were unplowed. Venturing into them was almost a guarantee of getting stuck; and I couldn't afford another \$20 tow. Walking was generally limited to sharing plowed street paths with traffic as sidewalks were generally unshoveled. The radio kept chanting directives from local government bureaucrats that all cars be removed from the streets so that the plow trucks could do their work. With the parking lots unplowed I could only wonder if everyone was supposed to drive in circles for 24 hours until the plowing had been accomplished. All of the schools and most businesses closed.

I used to love snow days when I was in school, usually hunkering down in front of the TV with a good excuse to do nothing for a day or two. I'm remembering one time when everything was shut down with roads virtually impassable and one of my classmates held a party which drew students from 30 miles around. When our teachers found out we managed to make it out for a party, they weren't too inclined to shut down the school for inclement weather any more that year.

Fortunately or unfortunately (I find myself worrying more about wasted time as my world enough and time dininished) I live close enough to GHQ that even the blizzard of '99 wasn't a good enough excuse to keep me from getting to the office. I was there alone for three days because my co-workers lives in Detroit, a city which doesn't even bother trying to plow residential streets. All of this got me thinking about living in a rational society. Ahh, what a daydreamer. In a society where we worked toward our class and community interests, I imagine everything shutting down for a day during such an emergency except for vital industries like health care and food distribution. Of course getting individual vehicles plowed out wouldn't be so necessary in a society which prioritized a good mass transit system. The work of those unable to reach their usual places of work would be to help shovel out their neighborhoods and wider communities. I see some preparing food for the shovelers, some providing entertainment, comradierie rather than isolated human units shoveling only their own spaces; many hands making light work. Instead we let the local governmental bureaucracies take days to clean the streets while the workers sit and wait or do the best they can as individuals. Ahh well. For the moment the collective solution is just a dream; maybe not forever.

Fortunately the worst of the snow came a week before the Detroit Collective was to do production on its first issue editing the *Industrial Worker*. The drive to Detroit for a collective meeting five days after the worst of the snowfall was only semi-perilous, finding parking there only semi-impossible.

We met at the Anchor Bar, watering hold for the locked-out newspaper workers who produce the *Detroit Sunday Journal* in the offices upstairs. It's one of those places where a hamburger is, well, a hamburger, where the beer is cheap, and where the working-class clientele almost universally knows the meaning of solidarity. It was a good meeting as we continued to piece together who we are and what our vision for the paper is. Eight Wobs showed up to evaluate and prioritize articles. We left with our assignments for soliciting and revising articles, plans for production and all the little odds and ends tasks vital for getting the paper out. The vision hasn't changed much. Articles were evaluated based on their relevance for a revolutionary working class newspaper. There will be minor and gradual stylistic changes. We fully expect to make our share of mistakes as the Collective goes through its shake-down phase. Barring another blizzard, this first issue produced by the Collective will be mailed on the same monthly schedule as under the previous editorship. Hope the result meets with your approval. If not, let us know. We will welcome the constructive criticism of our readers and do our very best to be responsive to suggestions for improvement.

See you on the next picket line, or the next snow shoveling line, whichever becomes necessary first.

Fred Chase

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# SOLIDARITY

In this column, I intend to put forward ideas and articles which are devoted to examining and illuminating the natural connections which exist between wage slaves and other oppressed people, and the ravaged natural world. This philosophy, which I call Revolutionary Ecology, explores the concept that all oppression stems from the same root cause and that, because this is true, we, the oppressed of the world, must all unite in our efforts to break our chains, or we will never attain that freedom which we disallow ourselves by our own bullheaded arrogance.

How does the left form a firing line? It stands in a circle...

## One More Dead at the Hands of Big Timber

David Chain was not the first to be killed by the timber industry...nor will he be the last.

The timber industry is the third largest industry in the world. As such, it wields enormous power which encourages officials to overlook any indiscretions which they may perpetrate. The toxic legacy of the paper industry provides one example. The massive discharge, for decades, of dioxin due to bleaching paper with chlorine, has had a direct hand in creating an environment so toxic that the rate of cancer in the US is 1:4. But recently when the EPA came out with new regulations for the pulp and paper industry regarding dioxin, they opted not to force the industry to change their technology to Totally Chlorine Free (TCF), which would have eliminated dioxin. Instead they chose to require industry to change over to the Elemental Chlorine Free (ECF) process, which still emits dioxin

(albeit less). But when dealing with a substance as toxic as dioxin, any amount is too much.

Then there is the logging profession itself, one of the most dangerous there is. Many are maimed or killed every year. But the Fat Cats who run these timber beasts know workers are replaceable. (And the Dow takes a nose dive if unemployment is too low.)

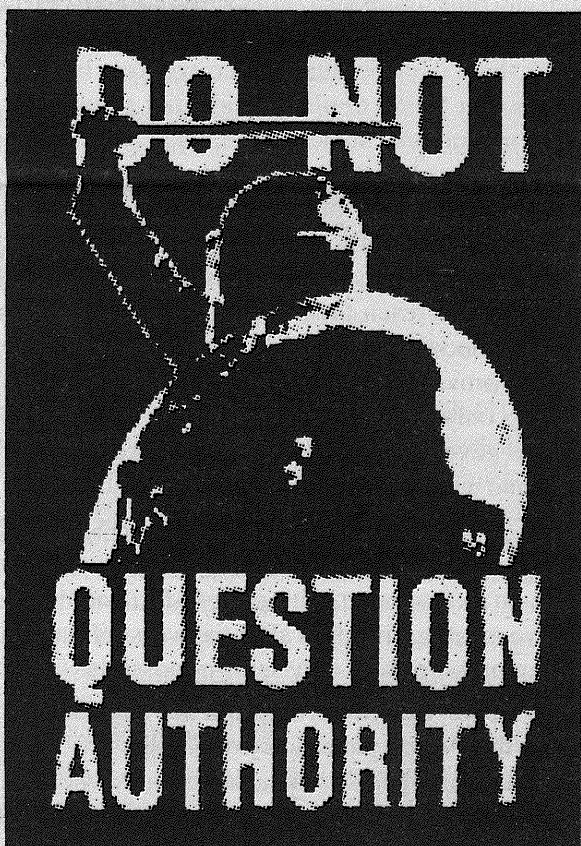
As of last year, 80% of the Earth's original forests were gone while the timber industry rapidly accelerated the destruction of those that remained. In the US, less than 5% of our original forest still stands.

The timber industry logs primeval ancient forests, rainforests, temperate and boreal forests, all homes to native peoples, endangered species and spectacular life forms that exist nowhere else. According to the *New York Times*, forest fragmentation is the leading cause

of extinctions worldwide.

Anything that stands in the way of timber profit must be eradicated. And with the bombing of Judi Bari and the killing of David Chain, not to mention the violent repression of strikes, they have shown that they regard humans with little more concern than the trees they pulp.

Judi Bari was a redwood activist who was also a carpenter, a Wobbly labor organizer, a feminist and a mother. She was an expert at making connections between mill workers and environmentalists.



This alliance frightened the establishment so much that in May, 1990, in Oakland, CA, Judi Bari was permanently crippled by a pipe bomb which exploded under her car's seat. She was then immediately arrested by the FBI for transporting explosives, even as she lay in her hospital bed.

With

solid support from the IWW Judi initiated a lawsuit against the FBI and through hours of depositions, it was uncovered that two weeks before she was bombed, the Oakland FBI held a "bomb school" on Louisiana Pacific timber company land, to practice making and placing pipe bombs.

But the brutality of Big Timber extends internationally. And people of color are viewed with even less regard than white activists of the US. In Chiapas, Mexico, the centuries-long genocide of the native peoples of this continent continues, with the sanctioning of paper corporations such as International Paper.

Chiapas' Lacandon rainforest is being greedily eyed by multinational timber gluttons including International Paper, who would transform this magnificent forest, home to the greatest biodiversity in all of Mexico, into a eucalyptus plantation for pulping. But

Native Forest Network, IWW, and ACERCA (Action for Community and Ecology in the Rainforests of Central America) can be contacted at the Eastern North American Resource Center, POB 57, Burlington, VT 05402 USA (802)863-0571 FAX:(802)864-8203 EMAIL:nfnena@sover.net www.nativeforest.org

first the Mayan Zapatistas who live there and have risen up to protect their homeland, must be eliminated. US government drug war dollars are being funnelled into the "low intensity war" against the Zapatistas, which has claimed more than 1,500 lives in the region, to clear the way for "progress."

It is time for the timber industry to be held accountable. They will attempt to scapegoat the logger who felled the tree which killed David, saying he was a pariah and the incident an anomaly. But his action came out of the lies he was told by Pacific Lumber which set up the Us and Them mentality. Earth First!ers have been labeled as dangerous eco-terrorists by the timber industry, the Wise Use movement and the media, despite their consistent track record of non-violence.

Industry pits workers against environmentalists to keep the real problems hidden: log export, overcutting, wholesale ecological obliteration; these are the issues which threaten jobs—not spotted owls and Earth First!ers.

We must hold big timber accountable.

It is time for society's values to transcend capital, to the higher plane of ecological integrity, without which none of us can survive.

(note: The DA of Humboldt County, where this incident took place has decided not to press any charges for the death of David Chain. The Good News is that he has also decided not to press Manslaughter charges against the Earth First!ers who were there with David. Yes, he was actually considering it. The DA has insisted that he was not biased in investigating this case despite the lawsuit against the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department regarding the illegal use of pepper spray against non-violent restrained activists.)

Anne Peterman

## Operators on hold

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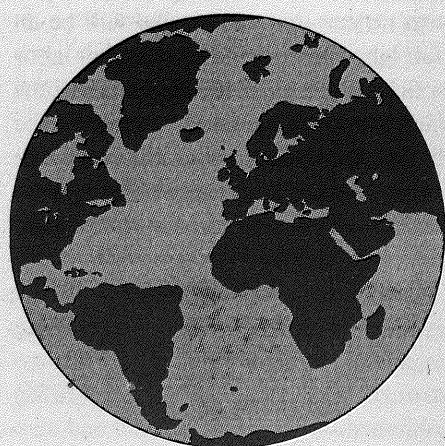
aforementioned reasons, but because Bell Canada receives funding and financial support from the federal government including research grants and tax breaks. In a poll conducted by ConQuest Research on January 13 and 14, 1999, 67% of the respondents felt that Bell Canada should lose this support. Corporations cannot be allowed to sell a division that is part of a federally regulated company to the private sector, especially when loyal employees will suffer losses in salary, and lose the protection of the federal law, as is the case here. Placing high margin profits over the plight of 2,500 telephone operators, trying to circumvent federal law by selling out, yet still retaining eligibility for government support can have staggering implications.

Although Bell Canada has promised that no jobs will be moved to the U.S., there can be no assurances or guarantees. There is nothing then to stop the southward trend, not only in the telephone business, but in any business.

Corporations have hit upon downsizing and other tactics to make a buck at the expense of the people that are responsible for the large profits, and to avoid confrontation with union members and other persons willing to fight for the recognition of their rights. Money-makers will continue to do what they can to reduce their overhead, get fat on earnings, and crush worker movements. NAFTA is an example of this on the international level. Certainly the workers of the world were never considered in this agreement. It is an agreement by owners, for owners, with money as the bottom line. This trend to sell out, or to move companies to areas where wages are lower will only continue until it is at epidemic proportions.

The Canadian government could create a catastrophe by allowing a federally regulated company to make a move such as Bell Canada. This can create a trend that will have a negative impact on the Canadian economy as the operators will no longer be able to take advantage of previous benefits won by their union, must accept a large pay-cut, and will actually lose access to protective laws. If Canada's Prime Minister chooses to remain silent on this issue, it will be up to the CEP, union members, and other loyal Canadians to fight this move.

Federal governments in numerous countries have proven to be no friend of the organizer, but this time the federal government of Canada *can and must* protect the rights of its workers because they are in danger of losing the protection of a federal law. Union President Fred Pomeroy is ready. "We will fight this move in every way possible including through the legal process, collective bargaining, the political process, the workplace and in the streets". More than half of Canada will too.





# "A Dark and Bloody Ground"

That's what it was originally dubbed by early escaped European indentured servants in the Appalachian mountains of Southeastern Kentucky. Throughout its rich history, the value of the name has endured, especially since this coal-mining region is where some of the most dramatic lines of the class war have been drawn—complete with 20th century indentured servitude, massive strikes and bloody gun battles between workers, scabs, and owners. Militant unions spanning from the IWW to the UMW have been organized, and about these struggles movies have been made, and books have been written. All of these facts would lead one to believe that the current situation must currently be better than it was before all the years of fighting back began.

But the reality of the situation today is that most unions have been forced out of the mines in one way or another. Many people live on the inevitable disability checks that coal-miners often end up depending on after serious life-threatening accidents in the mines. And an alarmingly large portion of coal miners still end up with black lung and other respiratory diseases.

But today, in Harlan County only one mine (Arch of Kentucky) remains organized. And in nearby Leslie County there are no unions in the mines at all. In an attempt to take advantage of the weak labor situation, the coal companies are now routinely using what they term "contract labor" at about \$10 per hour to undermine the prevailing wage of about \$15 per hour of those employed directly by the company. And workers still routinely face serious injury or death in the

mines, such as mine worker Basil Hall, who was killed in a December 17, 1998 accident at the Unicorn Coal Company. But workers haven't given up on organizing just yet.

Coal miner John D. Smith of Hyden, Kentucky recently tried to organize the Shamrock Coal Company (owned by Sun Oil Company) through United Mine Workers of America. After months of hard work and secret meetings, Smith got about half the workers to sign cards, but the bureaucracy of the UMW said they wanted more people to sign before they would agree to hold an election. Smith said that the group most willing to sign cards were the older coal miners who had been there awhile, and who had in the past seen the benefits that organizing provides. But as for the younger miners, Smith said, "for most of them this is the most money they've ever made in their lives, and they don't want to jeopardize that. But what they don't realize is that the only reason they make that much now is because of the unions that fought for it in the past." Shortly afterwards, Smith's leg was broken in a mining accident, putting him out of work.

Clearly this is an area that desperately needs some democratic, worker-run unions as well as some up-to-date information on what a fighting union can do today for the younger portion of the working class. But with all the propaganda that is out there about unions (some of it created by the actions of business unions themselves), it is hard to imagine how a child could grow up with a positive view of organized labor. This leaves a situation where only those old

enough to remember what it was like to work with the dignity of organization are supportive of unionization.

Today, the end of the coalfields is in sight (though it is still a ways off) and residents of Southeastern Kentucky are getting worried. How will they put food on the table when all the coal companies have gone? A recent harbinger of the lower living standards of the encroaching service and information based economy was the entry of Walmart into the local economy. An initial employment advertisement drew some 2,000 applications for a total of only 150 available jobs.

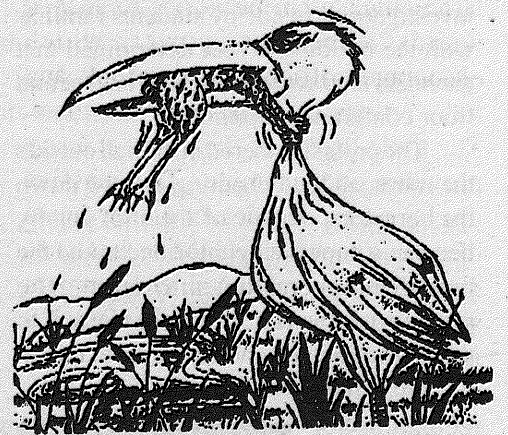
Meanwhile, workers at the local Emergency Medical Services are expected to work unheard of 24 and 48 hour shifts with little or no notice. Other workers are hired as "independent contractors" to deliver newspapers and are offered very little compensation for hard, dangerous work—work that you can't even call in sick for. And those who opt not to work for any of these tend to leave the mountains in search of work elsewhere rather than organizing to change it.

Amidst this desperate atmosphere, attempts have been made to attract textiles and other industries to the region, but most companies seem to be more attracted to the comparatively lower wage scales available in Latin America and Asia. The President of the Bank of Harlan likes to throw around claims that it is the county's labor history that is scaring away industry that might otherwise be interested in the region. In his story, there is no mention of the North

American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) or the General Agreement on Trades and Tariffs (GATT) of the early 1990's, which made it legal for corporations to abandon communities and nations in favor of cheaper labor and ever-higher profits elsewhere. Of course, it is in his direct economic interest to blame the situation on workers' organizing.

The current situation of Southern Appalachia's working class is a microcosm example of the reason why today's workers need a global, worker-run union to fight back against global, employer-run business. If workers are organized to a high degree world-wide in global solidarity, the employers will not be able to pit our interests against each other and the current global race to the bottom for the lowest wages and worst conditions (all for the sake of multinational's profits) will be put in permanent reverse.

Jason Adams



## Chomsky on Bombing Iraq

The US and its increasingly pathetic British lieutenant want the world to understand - and in particular want the people of the Middle East region to understand - that "What we say goes", as Bush defined his New World Order while the missiles were raining on Baghdad in February 1991. The message, clear and simple, is that we are violent and lawless states, and if you don't like it, get out of our way. It's a message of no small significance. Simply have a look at the projections of geologists concerning the expanding role of the Middle East oil in global energy production in the coming decades. I suspect that the message is understood in the places to which it is addressed.

A very conservative assessment is that the US/UK attacks are "aggression", to borrow the apt term of the Vatican and others. They are as clear an example of a war crime as one could construct. In the past, acts of aggression, international terrorism, and violence have sometimes been cloaked in at least a pretense of legality - increasingly ludicrous over the years, to be sure. In this case there was not even a pretense. Rather the US and its client simply informed the world that they are criminal states, and that the structure of binding law and conventions that has been laboriously constructed over many years is now terminated. It is still available, of course, as a weapon against designated enemies, but apart from that it is without significance or value. True, that has always been operative reality, but it has rarely been declared with such clarity and dramatic force.

As for the moral level, if the word can even be used, it is hard to improve on the pronouncements of Secretary of State Madeline Albright. Two years ago, when asked on national TV about her reaction to reports that the sanctions she administers have killed a half a million Iraqi children in 5 years, she responded that it is "a very hard choice" but "we think the price is worth it". We know very well enough on what page of history those

sentiments belong. Today, suggesting a reversal of Washington's policy since 1991 of seeking a military dictatorship to replace Saddam Hussein's in name at least, she explains that "we have come to the determination that the Iraqi people would benefit if they had a government that really represented them". We need not tarry on the plausibility of this sudden conversion. The fact that the words can be articulated tells us more than enough.

It costs the US/UK nothing to keep a stranglehold on Iraq and to torture its people - while strengthening Saddam's rule, as all concede. There is a temporary oil glut, and from the point of view of the oil majors (mainly US/UK clients), it's just as well to keep Iraqi oil off the market for the moment; the low price is harmful to profits. That aside, competitors (France and Russia) are likely to have the inside track when Iraq, which has the world's second largest known energy reserves, is brought back into the international system, as it will be when its resources are needed. So it might not be a bad idea to bomb the refineries too, while dismantling further what remains of Iraqi society.

The region is highly volatile and turbulent. Alliances can quickly shift. Though the fact is carefully suppressed, we would do well to bear in mind that the US/UK were highly protective of their admired friend and trading partner Saddam Hussein right through the period of his worst crimes (the gassing of the Kurds, etc.) and returned to support for him right after the Gulf war, in March 1991, as he turned to crushing a Shi'ite rebellion in the South that might have overthrown his regime. Alliances are likely to shift again. But fundamental interests

remain stable, and the two warrior states are making it as clear as they can that they are dangerous, and others should beware. It might also be recalled that a recent high-level planning study, released early this year but scarcely reported, resurrected Nixon's "madman theory", advising that the US should present itself as "irrational and vindictive", flourishing its arsenal and portraying itself as "out of control". That should frighten the world properly, and insure submissiveness, it is hoped.

The most ominous aspect of all of this is, perhaps, that the openly declared contempt for the laws of nations and professed norms of

foundations of international order are an absurd irrelevance, but they are doing so with the virtually unanimous endorsement of the educated classes. The world should notice, and it surely does, outside of narrow sectors of privilege and power.

The manner and timing of the attack were also surely intended to be a gesture of supreme contempt for the United Nations, and a declaration of the irrelevance of international law or other obligations; that too has been understood. The bombing was initiated as the Security Council met in emergency session to deal with the crisis in Iraq, and even its permanent members were not notified. The timing is interesting in other ways. The bombing began at 5pm. Eastern Standard Time, when the three major TV channels open their news programs. The script is familiar. The first war crime orchestrated for prime TV was the bombing of Libya in 1986, scheduled precisely for 7pm EST - which is when the major TV news programs aired then.

Personally, I doubt that all of this has much to do with the impeachment farce.

From Clinton's point of view, the coincidence mainly serves to undermine his credibility further, though the Democrats are plainly hoping to construct an issue for later campaigns, establishing the basis for much passionate rhetoric about how these evil Republicans attacked our Commander-in-Chief while our brave sons and daughters were putting their lives on the line for their country, and so on. The posture is familiar not only here, but also in the long and ugly record of warrior states generally.

Noam Chomsky



Photo by Becky Armstrong

civilized behavior proceeds without eliciting even a twitter of principled comment among the educated classes. Their position, with impressive uniformity, is that the criminal stance of the US and its client are so obviously valid as to be beyond discussion, even beyond thought. If such matters as international law or the opinions and wishes of the population of the region intrude at all, which is very rare, they are dismissed as a "technicality", with no bearing on the decisions of the global ruler. Not only are the warrior states officially declaring (not for the first, to be sure) that the



## Still Fighting Gannett & Knight-Ridder in Detroit

continued from pg 1

interviewer. As the group marched into the building chanting, they editors informed them that the interviews had been canceled. Nonetheless, a rally was held inside the Daily newsroom, to give the staff a chance to hear the locked-out workers speak. The Daily was informed of the current lock-out situation and the staff was asked to not work for or talk to the scab papers.

About 20 minutes later, after exiting the building, one of the protesters was informed by a Daily staff member that the interviews were indeed being held somewhere else on campus, but they wouldn't say where. Temporary confusion set in, while a call was placed to the Detroit News to inquire about the interviews.

Success - The Frieze Building, about 4 blocks away! The excitement grew as the protest reached the building. Some investigations inside by students familiar with the building layout determined that the interviews were being held in a second floor conference room.

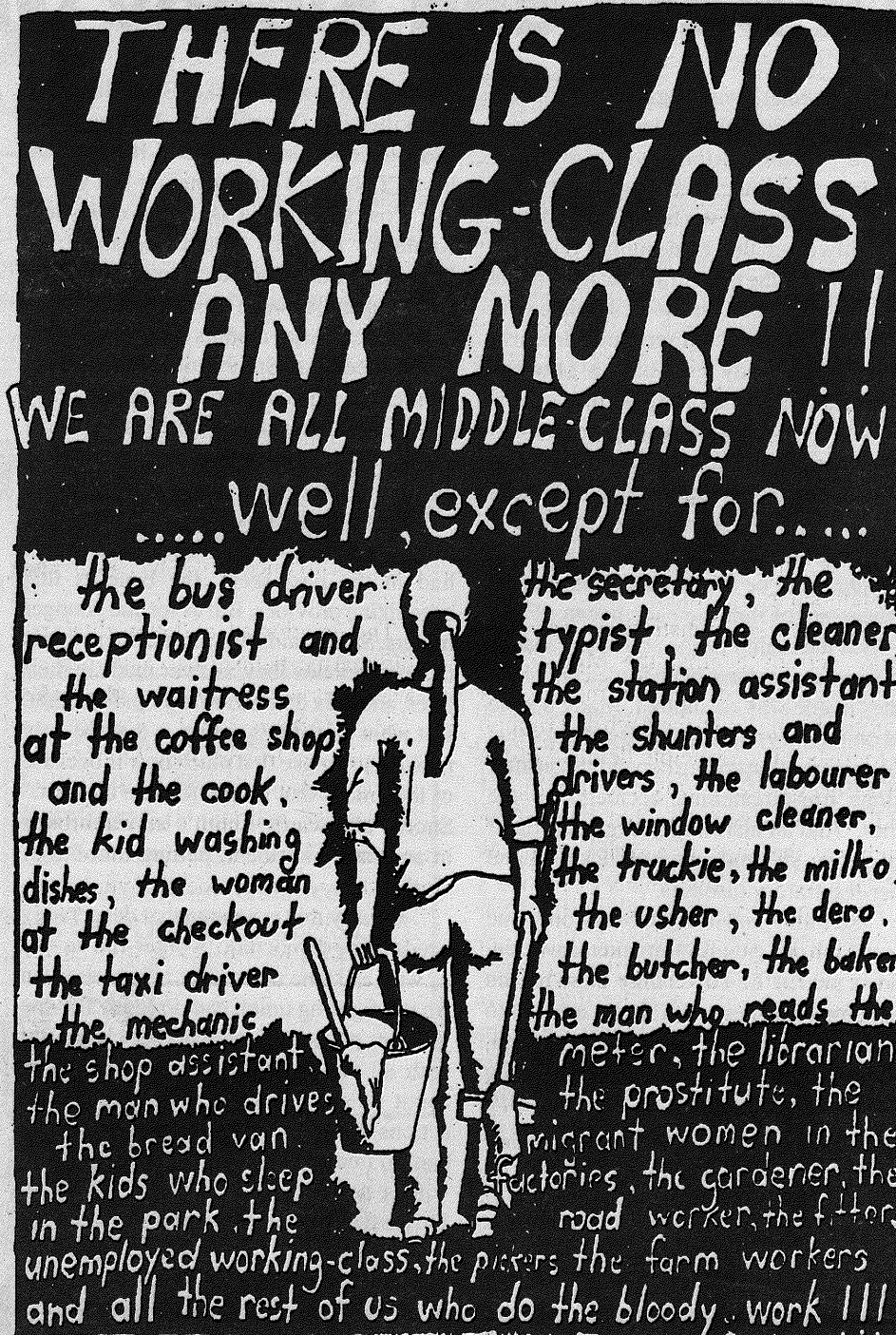
The protest gathered in the hall outside the room, as loud chanting echoed down the corridors. A few of the staff nearby became somewhat agitated and asked the protesters several times to leave. The purpose of the action was explained to them, and they left shortly, presumably to call the campus police. After 20 minutes of chanting outside the closed room, several students opened the door to the interview room (it was unlocked). The scab interviewer looked unhappy indeed, and tried several times unsuccessfully to

close the door.

Coincidentally, the interviewer was known to the locked-out workers present, and one of the two students being interviewed at the time was recognized by some of the student protesters as a candidate for next year's Michigan Daily editor-in-chief. Chanting their names, as well as "No Scab Papers", the protesters entered the small room, filling it to capacity. It was by then impossible to continue the interviews, and the Detroit News scab quickly left with the two students. As the protesters followed, several of them freed the conference room of the unsightly copies of the Detroit News and Free Press by tossing them out of the windows. The interviewers somehow disappeared down a hallway, and the protest gathered again outside to march back to the Daily offices.

As they left, the campus police finally arrived after almost 45 minutes, and asked one of the students if they could speak to the protest "leader". Unfortunately for them, there was no one leader, and the march continued without further harassment.

After a brief stop at the Daily to remind them that the protest will return should scab interviewing take place again, the protesters dispersed. It was unclear if the interviews continued elsewhere that day, but the point was certainly made that the scab papers could not come to the University of Michigan unchallenged. Of course it was no surprise that the action did not receive any coverage in the next day's edition of the Michigan Daily.



## Chiquita Banana is Unappealing

It is clear now that hurricane Mitch only modestly damaged plantations in the Guatemalan region, and the workers claim that replanting could be easily accomplished. The companies have yet to make an assessment of the damage, and still the J.C. Penney supplier in Honduras (an area much more severely affected by Mitch) was able to return to full production within a month of the storm. So why Guatemalan production been so negatively affected?

It's a story you're not supposed to hear, obviously. In May of 1998, the Cincinnati Enquirer (owned by No Way USA and Greedy Gannett - still in lockout in Detroit) published an 18 page report on the Chiquita operations. The sobering facts were reported on health and safety violations, union-busting and the companies' illegal doings. But Cincinnati is also a corporate home for Chiquita and the pressure was on. Gannett fired its reporter Mike Gallagher, ran three front-page apologies to the banana companies and then paid off \$10 million to Chiquita. (Talk about killing the messenger). Story squashed.

The following is based on reports coming out of Guatemala. Known to be least affected by hurricane Mitch, the banana bunch companies (Chiquita, Del Monte, Dole and Fyffes) are still using the storm to wrest concessions from workers; wages, health care and closings. Banana plantations are located in Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Guatemala. Chiquita, Del Monte and Dole control 90% of the banana consumption in the US, 65% in the world. Fyffes control

is primarily in Europe and Australia markets.

The Guatemalan problem lies in suppliers and subsidiaries. Chiquita has suppliers. Del Monte has subsidiaries. Both have union and non-union plantations, specifically two non-union plantations apiece. They wreck havoc on their workers; long working hours, low wages and human rights abuses are commonplace. The unions are trying to organize these non-union plantations. Dole and Fyffes have yet to be accounted for in Guatemala. COLSILBA is the union representing 25,000 of 30,000 Chiquita workers in Central America. SITRABI is the union representing Del Monte in Guatemala (5,000 workers) and UNSITRAGUA is the union representing 11 of the 13 Chiquita supplier plantations. These supplier plantations are separately owned by Independent Banana Corporation (COBIGUA). SITRABI also represents Del Monte subsidiary plantations called BANDEGUA.

The union rate of pay is \$9.50 to \$14.00 per day, with some health care benefits. Non-union pay is \$37.00 per week with no health care, forced overtime and squalid living conditions (housing consists of 10' by 10' cement huts). The organizing of both Chiquita and Del Monte's non-union plantations resulted in the firing of organizing leaders and no work for workers unless they signed an explicit anti-union statement was signed. The majority of the workers refused to sign, and were all locked out. The unions went to court and received an injunction called "emplaza miento" by a judge,

pending resolution of the conflict. This was, as usual, totally disregarded by non-union plantation owners, Mr. V. Haussler - an ex-military officer who owns the Chiquita non-union supplier plantations and Mr. G. Lippman, who leases and administers Del Monte subsidiaries. Each had, and still has, suspended production as of early in 1998, prior to when hurricane Mitch hit. They also eliminated electricity on the plantation, which powered the water filtration system among other things. Armed guards were ordered to block the bridge leading to workers' housing.

The owners then filed a petition to have the workers' actions deemed "illegal strikes". In addition, they have pressed for criminal charges against the union supporters. In response, the criminal/civil judge issued arrest warrants and declared that the workers engaged in an illegal strike and also ordered SITRABI union dues garnished. While the union workers are forced to go underground, the workers from the Izabel region (where all four non-union plantations are located), began protesting in the streets. Although the government aided armed company guards with its own 350 armed anti-riot police, violence was averted because of the presence of the United Nations verifications and human rights officials (MINUGUA and PDH). Chiquita and Del Monte retaliated by firing 508 union workers. 4,500 union workers walked off their jobs, proclaiming "an injury to one is concern to all" (possibly an inspiration from the IWW?). The company backed off, but it took back only 258 workers. To this day, 250 workers remain locked out.

Again, unionists protested by blocking the Atlantic Highway for a day. This action caused the human rights ombudsman to convene a meeting of all representatives: U.N., Labor and Interior Ministries, Independent Banana Producers and Union Representatives. A proposal was made, but Management rejected it and the two union officials were arrested leaving the meeting (despite promises that the arrest warrants would be suspended). The commission disbanded, having taken no action to resolve the conflict. The two union officials remain in jail.

We can all make efforts to get Del Monte and Chiquita to respect human and worker rights by contacting the advocate groups listed below. The fundamental balance of power in Guatemala fields and factories remains unchanged, and progress is nonexistent to this day. Chiquita and Del Monte must take responsibility for the sub-standard living and working conditions, and the outrageous levelling of criminal charges against union activists.

International labor and solidarity groups to be contacted are: NISGUA, [nisgua@igc.org](mailto:nisgua@igc.org), (202) 518-7638 and US/GLEP, [usglep@igc.org](mailto:usglep@igc.org), (773) 262-6502. These are non-profit organizations that support the basic rights of workers in Guatemala and elsewhere in Central America. A non-government solidarity group in Europe has banded with trade unions to form support and promote and advocate for corporate responsibility in the banana industry. Its acronym is EUROBAN.

John Aasske



## French workers press their advantage

French workers, employed and unemployed, continue their offensive calling for more employment and additional benefits for the unemployed.

Just prior to Christmas thousands of jobless workers demonstrated across France to press the Socialist-led government for a bigger increase in unemployment benefits and a Christmas bonus. Protest were staged in some 60 cities throughout the country against a three percent rise in unemployment benefits which jobless associations condemned as too small.

As these demonstrations occurred strike actions against the Ministry of Culture continued with the most recent actions closing down the Arch de Triumph to tourists. The principle demand of the striking workers was the hiring of additional workers. The shut down of the Arch was the latest in a series of strikes which have shut down many of France's most popular tourist attractions. In recent months striking cultural workers have shut down the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, and numerous museums and palaces.

Although France's unemployment rate has edged down recently to around 11.6 percent, it remains much higher than the historic norm. Workers and jobless activist have been attempting to keep the pressure on the socialist government of Prime Minister Lionel Jospin.

Jobless associations have been attempting to rekindle the protest movement which last year led to the occupation of dozens of unemployment offices across the country. A movement which won a reduction in the workweek and some small increases in unemployment benefits. On Christmas Eve, about 400 people occupied the headquarters of the French Insurance firm AXA, to protest against poverty and homelessness in general, unfurling a banner reading "War on Poverty".

Claire Villers, of Act Together against Unemployment, said the protesters had singled out "a very big financial company, as poverty grows in our country and the government is leaning toward measures to reduce taxes for the rich."

As the world wide economic crises deepens, drawing in more and more "advanced" national economies into the depression chronic and growing unemployment will become ever greater. Throughout Europe double-digit unemployment is becoming the norm. Only islands of prosperity remain. These prosperity bubbles have become much easier to move within and between national economies.

This movement of capital has caused national economies which historically have been unable to provide sufficient employment, such as Ireland, to become comparative economic dynamos. At the same time economic super powers, such as Germany, languish with little economic growth or employment prospects for thousands of displaced workers.

In less than a year the "Asian" economic crises has swept through the Pacific rim economies, devastated an already wrecked Russian economy and is now beginning to bring down South American economies like a falling house of cards.

Actions such as the recent ones in France clearly point a direction that must

be built upon: In 1997 and '98 mass actions by both employed and unemployed French workers forced the government to increase benefits to the unemployed and a reduction in the workweek. These concessions won from the state did reduce unemployment by 2 to 3 percent.

As the capitalist crises moves through national and then regional economies devastating employment as productive capacity is "rationalized" employed and unemployed workers must learn to act in concert to protect our interest as a class.

The creation of a "labor elite" is a traditional mechanism that capitalism uses to keep our class divided. The Rotterdam based, International Centre of Comparative Urban Policy Studies, in a study of unemployment in 14 European cities reports, that ethnic and immigrant communities are 2 to 3 times more likely to be the victim of unemployment than poor people of European origin. This is similar to the United States where



unemployment among African Americans has remained considerably higher than among whites. For example in Detroit where blacks number more than 80% of the population, the official unemployment rate is nearly double the rate of the surrounding suburban, and mainly white, counties. Statistics for other predominately African American urban centers like Washington D.C. and Oakland California are similar.

Solidarity begins and ends with how well we as a class defend the rights of those whom capitalism would make unemployed and redundant.

## Australian government continues attacks on workers

Coal miners in Australia, who had been on strike for 48 hours, were ordered back to work on December 14 under anti-trade union industrial legislation. The miners had been protesting against the Federal government's refusal to protect Australia's national interest and the jobs of miners following the announcement that Shell, Mount Isa Mines and the North Goonyella Mine have offered a major cut in coking coal prices to overseas buyers.

The price cut will flow on to all coal experts, causing revenue losses up to \$2 billion for Australia and will inevitably lead to further mass sackings. This action shows clearly that the Federal Government has abandoned any pretence of protecting the interests of Australian industry and the thousands of workers who will lose their as a job as a result of the actions of the coal mining

companies. Most are well known Trans National Corporations (TNC). The miners, on the other hand, are attempting to protect the economic and social interests of the Australian working people.

Peter Reith has declared that the price of coal is a matter for market forces. This laissez-faire attitude coupled with the refusal of the Resources Minister, Nick Minchin, to attend a cofereence of representatives of the NSW and Queensland governments together with industry and union representatives on December 17, shows that the government intends to go along with whatever the big corporations decide, even though it will result in increased hardship for more Australian townships and communities already in crisis.

Reith is claiming victory for his industrial legislation but by suppressing legitimate union demands, his government is adding to the widespread discontent of working people. Sooner or later, the government and the big corporations will be called to account.

In a media release, Tony Mayer, General Secretary of the CFMEU Mining and Energy Division says that "coal ming communities are reeling from the impact of the coal crisis and this government is to blame. In the past two years alone, around 4,000 jobs have been lost out of a workforce of 26,000. Another 1,000 jobs jobs are on the chopping block. For every mining job lost, another three jobs disappear in the community. This is not orderly industry restructuring; it's a bloodbath."

Mayer goes on to say that the latest round of price cuts in the cost of coal will have enormous repercussions. Last year's abolishment of coal export license controls and its unabashed free market dogma, basically gave the green light to the current price cutting. The message is clear to companies like Shell, not exactly known for high ethical standards in doing business. Plunder at will, and the government will back you up.

But the jig may be up for the multi-nationals. Workers are organizing to take back control of their lives. "Our members, our families and our communities are paying a devastating personal and social price. We've had enough", said Tony Mayer.

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# LaborTalk: Corporate Welfare Hustle

While Congress and the Clinton administration ended "welfare as we know it" by forcing millions of impoverished families off the welfare rolls, they have also joined hands in granting the nation's corporations a cornucopia of tax breaks, subsidies, research grants, low interest loans and other lucrative handouts totaling \$125 billion a year – even though these companies have been enjoying spectacular profits in a booming economy.

"Corporate welfare" has become a handsome payoff that lawmakers can offer their big business donors in return for their substantial campaign contributions. The only loser is the American taxpayer who has to bear the burden of government largesse. For the hundreds of companies that share in these lavish giveaways, it costs American workers an estimated two weeks' pay on their yearly tax bill.

A special report in *Time* magazine (November 9) has documented in shocking detail how federal and state governments pay enormous financial tribute to Corporate America with the open collaboration of the nation's lawmakers. Two of the magazine's top reporters, Donald L. Barlett and James B. Steele, after an 18-month investigation, have exploded the myth that the government is justified in funneling huge amounts of money and costly resources to corporations because by doing so, it is creating jobs. (Indeed, why

are companies entitled to get any government handouts for engaging in a for-profit business?)

The reporters cited the case of the U.S. Export-Import Bank which received a \$5 billion appropriation to subsidize

companies that sell goods to foreign countries. They note that in the Bank's five biggest benefactors – AT&T, Bechtel, Boeing, General Electric and McDonald Douglas (now a part of Boeing) – "which accounted for about 40% of all loans, grants and long-term guarantees in this decade, overall employment has fallen 38%, as more than a third of a million jobs have disappeared."

General Electric, which earned a

## REVOLUTION, SHE WROTE

by Clara Fraser,  
Red Letter Press,  
1998, \$17.95

Although this book consists of 73 separate entries, mostly Fraser's columns from the Freedom Socialist newspaper, it has been arranged to give a coherent perspective on Fraser's life and thought as well as some valuable insights into mainstream and leftist politics that anyone interested in the "why" of things in the late Twentieth Century can use.

Feminism or, as Lenin phrased it, "the woman question" runs as a main theme through Fraser's writings. "The burning problems of women," she says, "are rooted in the very economic structure of Capitalism." The system cannot do without the unpaid domestic labor of women caring for families and raising the next generation of wage slaves, cannot do without women as a permanent underclass to be super-exploited in the few jobs allotted to them, to serve as a target for the target for the frustrations of workers abused ever more brutally by the bosses. When women stand up for their rights as human beings, the very foundation of capitalism shakes. The treatment of women in a country is a clear indicator of how far that land has moved down the road to socialism.

The Soviet Union, as the author notes, which had begun with such promise under Lenin, marched backward under Stalin as its founder's laws and proclamations were repealed or ignored, and woman's equality dissolved into the "right" to work as hard as a man with little hope of advancement, then come home to a second full time job as homemaker without help. Even Gorbachev's reforms sought only "to make it possible to return to their purely womanly mission, "i.e. providers of unpaid domestic labor.

While conditions in America are not as bad for most women as those now prevailing in Russia, bourgeois feminism, Fraser shows, is rapidly dissolving into reformism and careerism as First Feminists like Gloria Steinem and Betty Friedan move steadily rightward,

ignoring the needs of working class women. Such a movement is to be expected, Fraser assures us, as the crisis of capitalism deepens, and the middle, always tenuous, dissolves. Having to choose between preserving their privileges by joining the right and making the dangerous leap into genuine revolt, centrists will almost always choose the right.

On a related subject, Fraser's essay on Capital's Labor Lieutenants and Socialist Sergeants probes the divisions among radicals, exposing the antics of "leaders" who refuse to lead, admonishing us not to rock the boat, lest we lose everything, and, far more important, lest they lose their positions of privilege.

This essay, however, ends where it should have begun. The misleaders and nay-sayers whom Fraser pillories are not the sole cause of division on the left. The urge to convert personal disagreements into political disputes also plays a role, as her own insistence that her former husband be expelled from the Freedom Socialist Party for his misbehavior during their divorce proceedings. The expulsion was carried out, but the party was nearly destroyed. It may well be that her estranged husband "violated every socialist standard of conduct by denying me the right to an uncontested divorce and child custody." We are left, however to ponder the question of how a mass movement can ever be built among groups so ready to purge the ideologically impure from their ranks.

If there is anything that might have been omitted from this book, it is Fraser's May Day sermons, ritual proclamations of mandatory optimism from decades past that ring ever more hollow today. Their place could have been better filled by more of her astute analyses of figures like Jesse Jackson who "settles for the humiliation of a permanent seat at the back of the Democratic bus" and Bob

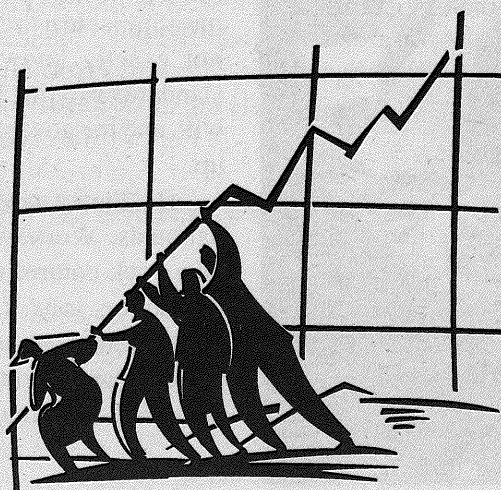
Dylan who "found Jesus and lost his soul." Her chapter on Lyndon LaRouche alone is worth the price of the book. The writer also understands the Sixties and that decade's achievements better than most of the Old Left. Her thoughts on "pork chop nationalism", borrowed frankly from the Black Panthers, are a strong antidote to the notion that culture and folkways can be substituted for coherent politics in the struggle for liberation. Her dissection of the famous Khrushchev speech decrying Stalin's crimes is Trotskyist politics at their best.

## Book Review

The greatest intellectual drawback to this book is Fraser's romanticism that allows her to fantasize about the most oppressed elements in society, chiefly women, seizing the leadership of the revolutionary movement and surging on to victory. One need not imagine, however, that the downtrodden are intellectually or morally incapable of such leadership to note that the revolutionary leaders of our time, Lenin, Trotsky, Castro, and even the masked subcomandante Marcos did not come from this milieu. Nor is it elitist to ask how those so abused and so consumed with questions of their own immediate survival are to find the time to educate and organize themselves for change, no matter how great their rage. How their justified anger is to be converted into an articulate, conscious mass movement is a question I would very much like to see Fraser address.

Fraser herself is, as we might expect, a controversial figure in her own right, especially in West Coast circles. But we need not join the "cult of Clara Fraser" to honor a champion of her ideas and ideals, one whom the bosses have been unable to silence, one who has done more than her share to afflict the comfortable and expose the exploiter. Her book is a valuable contribution to any serious effort to understand where the left is today, how it got there, and where it can go from here.

John Gorman



record \$8.2 billion in 1997, receives a package of expensive government favors that include export subsidies, tax credits, research grants and

federally provided insurance for its overseas projects. Far from creating new jobs, GE has slashed its work force by 120,000 in the past 11 years. Archer Daniel Midland, the world's largest agricultural commodity corporation, donated nearly \$3 million to Republicans and Democrats in Congress in the past decade. ADM, whose revenue in 1997 was \$13.9 billion worldwide, has received a continuing subsidy

for ethanol, a corn-based fuel, that has cost taxpayers \$5 billion during the 1990s.

In addition, corporations have profited immensely from a high-stakes bidding war among the states that offer them bundles of cash, tax abatement, free land, subsidized job training, reduced utility and water bills, and other inducements to get them to locate their factories and headquarters on their territory.

In Vance, Alabama, where elementary school children are packed into 17 portable classrooms, the town financed a new Mercedes plant with a \$253 million package of incentives.

To lure Frito-Lay to build a new plant in Jonesboro, Ark., the Arkansas Economic Development Commission provided the potato chip company a package of incentives estimated at more than \$10 million, while it turned down a request for \$750,000 from townspeople to build

a badly-needed sewage plant because it said there was no money in the budget. The state government, in effect, paid out \$61,000 for each of the 165 workers the company hired. There are plenty of horror stories in which the political leaders of states go to extraordinary lengths to attract new business at the expense of the local population, only to see the glowing promises transformed into costly failures.

One may well wonder why corporations that are such strong advocates of a free market economy have no scruples about getting as much as they can of government handouts. Who knows about the special favors for hundreds of business firms that are buried in the fine print of the recently approved federal budget's 3,825 pages?

Shouldn't corporate welfare be high on the AFL-CIO's agenda as it prepares for the 106th Congress?

— Harry Kelber



# Books for Rebel Workers

## IWW History

**The Centralia Tragedy of 1919: Elmer Smith and the Wobblies** by Tom Copeland. \$17.50.

**Fellow Worker: The Life of Fred Thompson.** Edited by D. Roediger.

Autobiographical reflections and philosophy from a veteran Wobbly who bridged the generations. \$10

**The Great Bisbee Deportation of July 12, 1917**

compiled by Rob Hanson. \$2.50

**Red November Black November: Culture and Community in the Industrial Workers of the World** by Salvatore Salerno.

Examines the interactions between the IWW and anarcho-syndicalism, with more attention than usual to the IWW's foreign-language papers. \$20

**Solidarity Forever—An oral history of the IWW.** Steward Bird, Dan Georgakas & Deborah Shaffer, eds.

A compilation of interviews with former and veteran Wobblies. Badly transcribed, but interesting reading. \$11

**Memoirs of a Wobbly** by Henry McGuckin

A rambling Wobbly organizer of the 1910s tells how they hoboed, organized and lived. Free speech fights and "fanning the flames of discontent." \$5

**Rebel Girl, the autobiography of Elizabeth Gurley Flynn.** \$9.95.



### Viva EZLN T-shirts



Red & Black on White. Benefits Wob aid to Chiapas. \$12 each (Large only) from Detroit GMB, 3570 W. Vernor, Detroit MI 48216.

**One Big Union.** by IWW. The basic introduction to the structure and methods of the Industrial Workers of the World. \$2

**The General Strike.** Ralph Chaplin's musical version of the IWW Preamble notes "without our brain and muscle not a single wheel can turn." He develops that idea in this essay. \$2

**Labor Law for the Rank & Filer.** by Staughton Lynd.

Revised and updated, this classic self-help manual is subtitled: "building solidarity while staying clear of the law." \$10

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# Exporting filth, exploiting immigrants

Over the past several months, the immigration issue has come to the forefront of the environmental agenda. The claim: "immigration into the US is the primary cause of massive population increases that are in turn causing the plundering of the resources of this country in a manner that is leading to the downfall of this great nation". The assertion continues that immigrants are using up all of "our" resources by daring to come to this country to live as well as we do. Never mind the fact that in Mexico, from whence the vast majority of these people are migrating, seventy percent of the inhabitants are people indigenous to the continent. The people wishing to close the borders, on the other hand, are not indigenous to the continent, but are, in fact, descendants of immigrants whomay even have had some part in the massacre of the original inhabitants. The colonist mentality continues.

The immigration issue was not well known even one year ago. Suddenly it is everywhere. The Sierra Club had a major vote on it ( their members opposed the hateful initiative by a three-to-two margin), massive packets of information were mailed out opposing immigration, and there were two workshops on the issue at the annual ELAW conference at the University of Oregon this year. How is it possible that this issue suddenly became so prominent? Perhaps it has something to do with the massive influx of money spent to promote it.

What is most disturbing about this issue is not so much that it is being pushed by neo-nazis and eugenicists, that is to be expected. They will use any means to prevent the entrance of those they deem to be "lesser breeds" into "their" precious country. What is most troubling is the steady stream of

respected "leaders" of the conservation movement who have signed on in the name of intolerance (like Dave Foreman, Brock Evans, Farley Mowat, Paul Watson, to name a few). It is my hope that this trend is not so much a sign of racist tendencies on their part, but rather



an inability to look deeply and see the real source of the problem.

The roots of environmental destruction do not lie with poor campesinos who are being forced to leave their homes in search of the means to feed their families. It began with the theft of their traditional lands by the European invaders over 500 years ago and continues today with the global economic order that uses institutions like the World Bank to force so-called "Third World" countries to institute debt austerity programs. Through these programs, countries are given loans only if they agree to cut off vital human services and focus on resource export, both by emphasizing growing chemically dependent export crops, which ruin communities' abilities to sustain themselves, and multinational logging, mining or oil ventures. This in turn forces people to leave their homes because they no longer have a means to

sustain their simple subsistence lifestyle. And why does the World Bank do this? To maintain the lifestyles of the people in the "First World" who, consuming up to seventy times the resources of the average campesino, require the import of mass quantities of resources from the

countries of the south.

Before we accuse the people of Mexico and Central America of "invading" the US and stealing "our" jobs and resources, we should first stop invading their countries and stealing their resources. Then they won't be forced to leave their homes in the first place.

Anne Peterman

Immigrants and others perceived to be immigrants have recently faced intensified harassment in Detroit from city cops and INS agents, according to the Coalition Against INS Raids. The group has held informational meetings on Detroit's Southwest side, where one of the US's largest Mexican communities lives, and has held protests at the INS offices.

Plans to build a huge new facility for the INS on Detroit's Southwest side are underway, with public announcements having been made by government officials that increased enforcement (read: harassment) is a major goal.

The facility is being built on a site where a neighborhood already exists and it preempts the plans submitted by Medecine Bear School for their much needed library. Medecine Bear is the city's only indigenous run and focussed school. The location of the INS facility will prevent Medecine Bear from expanding its services to its students, including expanding the school to include a Middle school.

The INS seems to be taking a strong step towards destabilizing this longtime community. Contact the Xicano Development Center, 3570 W. Vernor, Detroit MI 48216 (313.841.0838) for more information on how you can help.

## Ford workers occupy Brazilian auto plant

In a move that reflects the destabilizing effect of the recent layoffs on Brazil's economy, Brazil devalued its money as of January 13. This action has caused "trouble" in stock markets, according to experts.

The Ford Motor Company, which operates three plants in Brazil, is in the process of firing almost 40% of their workers. Last week, nearly 2,800 workers from a single plant in a city close to San Paulo were sacked. More than 1500 other workers are threatened with layoffs in the other two plants in the near future.

Ford has been the only automotive company in Brazil that had not made a restructuring (ie: had not fired any workers previously in a plan to downsize) in the past few years. Ford felt, in comparison to companies like Volkswagen and Fiat, who are now producing more cars with less workers, that their profits were not as maximized as they could be.

Ford's share in the auto market in Brazil has fallen from 20% to only 12%, causing the capitalists to panic. Their decision to cut their workforce by 40% was an attempt to recover from their loss

in sales. Even with these unconscionable austerity measures, there is little likelihood for Ford to change its position in the market anytime in the near future. Economists are predicting a recession this year in Brazil and in Argentina, which is the main importer of Brazilian cars.

As usual, the rank and filers are way ahead of their "leadership" in their struggle. Workers occupied the plant where the layoffs took place for the past two days (as of Jan. 12), but were told by the Auto Workers Union that only one tactic will be employed by the union to save jobs: the reduction of wages and hours. Last year, workers at Volkswagen made the same reductoin agreement, but Volkswagen cut the jobs anyway.

Although the Brazilian working class is generally aware and supportive of the Ford workers, there has as yet been no call to actively defend them or to rally to turn the trend of "restructuring" and to save jobs.

Please send messages of support to the president of the Union at presidencia@smabc.org.br with copies to marcelo.stella@sti.com.br

## Join the Industrial Workers of the World

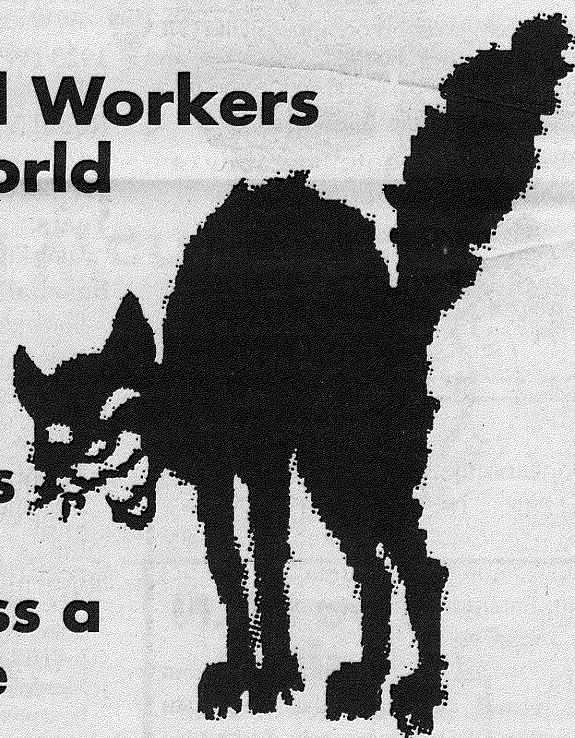
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**Solidarity Forever!**



## Be a Wobbly — Join the IWW...

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To Join mail this form with a check or money order for initiation and first month's dues to IWW, 103 West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti MI 48197, or contact your local delegate. Dues: Monthly income under \$1,000: \$5 per month; Income \$1,000-2,000: \$10 monthly; Over \$2,000: Dues \$15. Initiation Fee is same as one month's dues. A low-income worker can join for as little as \$10.00

- ☐ I affirm that I am a worker, and that I am not an employer.
- ☐ I agree to abide by the IWW constitution and regulations.
- ☐ I will study its principles and make myself acquainted with its purposes.

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